

## **DOMINION LABOR PARTY**

# *Reconstruction Program for Canada*

**Issued by the Winnipeg and District Branch**

Never again must the world be drenched with human blood shed by human hands. Mankind must be freed from the fear of war. Democracy must make the world safe for humanity. Autocracies, whether they be monarchic, military, or financial, must be shorn of power to pass the death sentence on masses of workers. War must be made unprofitable and impossible. Peace, with its myriad blessings, must become the permanent environment of man.

To ensure this, "reorganization" rather than "reconstruction" of society is essential. There must be a definite break with the past. We must strike out for something new. Our purpose is to reorganize society so that men will be more highly regarded than money, life more esteemed than land, and person held more sacred than property. Such a condition can only come when the workers democratically control their own governments and the industries in which they are engaged. Believing it is desirable that this great change should come through political action we have set out, briefly, our plan of attack upon the plutocratic forces which now rule Canada and invite the cooperation of all citizens who desire to do their duty in assisting to secure freedom and justice for all.

### **A Levy on Property**

Because the government failed to conscript wealth during the recent war an enormous debt amounting to more than a billion and a half (\$1,500,000,000) has been saddled on the backs of the Canadian people. Allowing only five per cent interest this means an annual charge of \$75,000,000 for interest alone. At a conservative estimate \$50,000,000 a year will be necessary for pensions to disabled soldiers and the dependents of those who have died on active service. At least \$200,000,000 will be needed for other purposes, which means, if things are allowed

to remain as they are, an annual levy of at least \$325,000,000. No provision is made in the above calculation for paying off the debt. It would be practically impossible to do that by the ordinary methods of taxation. Apart from expediency, justice demands that the sacrifice of life and limb which has been made by the manhood of the nation should be in some measure matched by a sacrifice of wealth. Those who have done the fighting should not be also compelled to do the paying. The young men have "done their bit." The rich old profiteers should now be called upon to "pay their bit." Feeling that each generation should

pay it own way and that it would be criminal for us to consent to any arrangement which would leave our children slaves of the bond holders, we propose a levy upon property to wipe out the war debt. Believing that those who have profited most by the war should pay most of the cost we would exempt from this levy all whose total property does not exceed in value \$5,000 and steeply graduate the levy on those who own property of greater value.

#### Property Registration Necessary

As there has been no registration of property for national service it is somewhat difficult to estimate the value of property privately held, but the census of 1911 will serve as a starting point. From that source we learn that in 1910 capital was invested thus:—

Fisheries .....	\$ 19,019,870
Mines (building and plant only) .....	108,506,051
Manufactures .....	1,247,583,609
Farm (land) .....	2,519,777,901
Farm (buildings) .....	823,951,767
Farm (implements) .....	257,007,548
Railways .....	1,410,297,687
Land Speculation: Since only 36,000,000 acres of Canada's tillable land (440,951,000 acres) is cultivated, and bearing in mind the enormous value of town sites, it is safe to estimate land held for speculation at	6,000,000,000
Total.....	\$12,386,144,433

To this must be added capital invested in banks, insurance companies, wholesale and retail business, etc., and personal property.

Allowance must also be made for the increase in property values since 1910. Taking these things into consideration, it is reasonable to predict that the value of private property in Canada is not less than \$20,000,000,000.

A tithe, 10%, would therefore equal \$2,000,000,000—more than sufficient to cancel the war debt, if paid in cash.

It would be preferable to allow payment in cash, stocks, bonds, or land. Payment in land might well be encouraged, for if one-tenth of Canada's untilled acres were returned to the government it would approximate 40,000,000 acres—enough to provide abundance of land for all returned soldiers who wish to become farmers.

#### Housing

Urban lands acquired under this levy could be used for municipal housing projects. This plan would eliminate the land speculators and permit all monies voted for housing to be spent in the erection of homes, which should be model dwellings, municipally owned. This brings us to the question of

#### Natural Resources

As a means to meet an immediate necessity, the Labor Party stands for public ownership of all natural resources. It contends that all lands, mines, timber limits, power sites, etc., now held, or in future acquired, by government should not be sold, but should be leased for the annual rental value.

In the case of farm lands leased to returned soldiers, as some compensation for time lost and hardships endured in the recent war, we would give them the use of land rent free for five years, and at the end of that period permanent occupancy on payment of the annual rental values.

#### Land Value Taxation

To facilitate the establishment of the equal rights of all to the use of land the Labor Party favors a progressive tax on land values, to be increased annually until the whole rent of land shall be taken into the public treasury. Concurrently with the increase of taxes on land values the taxes on the necessities of life can be decreased. This policy will make both the land and food more easily obtainable.

#### Demobilization

1. Satisfactory employment in Canada for returned soldiers to be secured before discharge, or pay until employed.
2. Employment to be provided by production, for citizens welfare, of food, clothing and shelter.
3. Building of Public Auditoriums, Theatres, Schools, Public Highways, etc., etc.

#### Vocational Training

Vocational training as applied to the re-establishment of soldiers to civilian life is a problem that requires careful thought and judicious handling, but if approached in the right spirit presents no special difficulty. The object should be to place the returned men back into civilian life with the full status of able-bodied citizens, without any loss to themselves or their families. In order to attain this object we advocate the following:—

1. The co-ordination of vocational training with industry under actual working conditions.
2. The establishment of schools in railway shops and other big plants.
3. Schools separated from industry to be supervised by men who are fully qualified as teachers and workmen.
4. Superintendence of vocational and technical training to be placed in the hands of practical men with a wide knowledge of industrial conditions.
5. Representation of organized labor on all boards dealing with vocational training and technical education.
6. Organized labor customs and practices to be protected. No departure from usual methods without consultation with responsible labor bodies.
7. Local autonomy, city and provincial in the managements of schools and workshops under the vocational boards.

#### Pensions

Equalized pensions for soldiers and their dependents, regardless of previous rank. On the basis of \$1,000 per year for total disablement with proper provision for wives and children. All children's allowances to be continued till they reach the age of 18. Grading to be determined by a board on which Returned Soldiers and Labor are adequately represented.

#### Finance

1. A National Banking System.
2. Gradual abolition of private banks.
3. Popularization of Post Office bank.
4. Capitalization of Joint Stocks, and other corporations, to be represented by physical assets.
5. All money to be issued by the Federal Government.

#### Liberty

The abolition of conscription.

The release of all political prisoners.

The rescinding of all orders-in-council, and acts of parliament passed under the War Measures Act, which restrict the rights of free speech, free press, and peaceable assembly. Also the obliteration of the War Times Election Act.

#### International Affairs

No plans for reconstruction are complete that fail to give due consideration to the conduct of external affairs. The full consummation of a democratic programme can only be realized under conditions of orderly and unthreatened peace. War and the fear of war, preparation for war and the payment of war debts have hitherto bulked so largely in

the affairs of all nations, and have so frequently been used to distract attention from injustice at home, that little thought or time or money has been expended upon the solution of vital domestic problems. We therefore declare for a foreign policy based upon the recognition of the common rights and common interests of the people of all lands; a policy tending towards and working for the development of the United States of the World.

To this end we stand for a peace of reconciliation, the terms of which shall be based upon the following principles, and for the full recognition of these principles in all matters of international policy henceforth:

1. No annexations without the free consent of the populations concerned. Self determination of all nations, and the immediate withdrawal of troops and battleships from Russia.
2. No punitive indemnities.
3. No economic war to follow the armed conflict, but the promotion of free commercial intercourse between all nations.
4. Daylight diplomacy. No secret treaties. Parliamentary consent to all treaties or undertakings of any kind with other nations. Creation of adequate machinery ensuring full democratic control of foreign policy.
5. Drastic reduction of armaments by all belligerent powers. The nationalization of the manufacture of armaments. The national control of armament export trade. The removal of the incentive of profit from all industries connected with war. The foregoing to be steps toward general disarmament.

We support the plan for an International Labor conference to be called at the same time as the peace conference. We do this recognizing that the interests of the workers of the world are safe only in their own hands, through representatives of their own class.

#### City Government

We favor the election of the City Council from the City at large by the preferential ballot.

Any change in the form of civic government to be first submitted to a referendum of the electors.

We are strongly in favor of Tax reform, by reducing the taxes on homes and increasing them on land values.

A home rule charter for Winnipeg.

The adoption of the principle of initiative and referendum.

The abolition of property qualification for office.

### **Educational**

To have free Text Books for pupils of all grades and to encourage the use of school buildings as social centres.

### **Social Welfare**

We reaffirm our stand on the municipalization of Hospitals and desire the further development of the Bureau of Child Hygiene including free medical attention.

### **Economic**

We insist upon the right of organization for all civic employees; equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex.

Public ownership of all public utilities.

We support the establishment of Municipal trading, cold storage plants, etc., in order to stop profiteering.

### **General Platform**

The interests of all workers, mental and manual, male and female, organized and unorganized, are identical. Though much has been accomplished by the industrially organized workers, the ultimate emancipation of all workers lies in the fullest use of political as well as industrial action. The uniting of all these forces in a Labor Party is necessary to obtain the desired result. For such purpose this Party is organized.

### **Immediate Demands**

1st.—The Labor Party stands for the transformation of capitalist property into social property, with production for use instead of for profit.

2nd.—Public ownership of railways, telegraphs, telephones, aerial transportation, franchises, water, lighting, etc.

3rd.—Education.

Sec. 1.—For the fullest and freest education for all, from the elementary school to the university, and compulsory attendance until the age of sixteen.

Sec. 2.—An efficient and extensive system of technical and vocational training directly connected with industry and agriculture.

Sec. 3.—National schools of music and art.

Sec. 4.—The inclusion of Civics and Economics in the public school curriculum.

Sec. 5.—Teachers' representation on School Boards.

4th.—For the abolition of all property qualifications and election deposits for public office.

5th.—For the abolition of child labor under 16 years of age and the establishment of equal pay for equal work for men and women.

6th.—For equal suffrage for men and women over 21 years of age.

7th.—For the principle that this Party should seek to obtain representation on all public bodies.

8th.—Direct legislation through the Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

9th.—Proportional representation with grouped constituencies.

10th.—Representation on a basis of population.

11th.—Abolition of the Senate.

12th.—Introduction of State Old-age Pensions.

(Assented to Jan. 8, 1919.)

## **DOMINION LABOR PARTY WINNIPEG AND DISTRICT BRANCH**

Date .....

Name .....

Address ..... Phone No. ....

I hereby make application for membership in the above Party, being willing to sign and support its platform and constitution.

Occupation .....

Fees \$1.00 half-yearly. Amount paid, \$ .....

Proposed by .....

Received by .....

Mail Application, with fee, to Secretary, Room 1, Labor Temple.